

Commission on the Status of Black Males Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, April 12, 2005

Members present: Larry Brown, David Hummons, Cedric Harris and George Tardy, proxy for William Knox. **Guests:** Sophia Travis, Monroe County Council, Aniko Bahr, MCCSC and Brian Chatfield, graduate student. **Staff:** Craig Brenner, Liaison, City of Bloomington.

Approval of the Minutes: March 9, 2005 minutes approved.

Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Coalition Report

David asked for clarification on the tobacco coalition and why we are involved. Would it make more sense to have someone from IU or from the community attend the meetings or work to write a grant? David will meet with Jim on Friday and they will discuss this. He will also talk to some health care professionals. Aniko suggested we partner with Latino organizations. David will get some ideas from IU health care professionals and bring ideas to the next meeting. Sophia Travis will speak with the Monroe County Health Department about this. Cedric reminded the commission that we have not gotten to health yet as a topic.

Goals discussion postponed as Genny is at a conference today.

Follow-up issues from the Town Hall Meeting on Race, School Discipline and Criminal Justice.

Aniko reported that March 28 was the first public forum with approximately 50 people in attendance. The format was similar to the town hall meeting. The goal was to listen and take notes. Two work meetings followed and they discussed 1) accountability for discipline, and 2) alternatives to expulsion and suspension. The next public meeting is April 28th at Bloomington High School South and it will have a problem-solving format. It will be a roundtable with two forum members at each table. The groups will discuss two questions: 1) What is my role in preventing disciplinary problems from getting to the point of suspension or expulsion, and 2) Are the alternatives in place sufficient or do we need changes? They will provide other information or resources to consider, i.e. Aurora High School, Allison Jukebox, Teen Learning Center and homebound instruction. The roundtable workgroups will discuss each question and then report back to the larger group.

Sophia shared her reaction to the forum. She thought it was a proactive meeting. She talked to Russ Skiba. When talking about suspension and expulsion, some people think that your response should be an either – or. David reported some concerns with racial categories. There isn't any homogeneity in the multi-racial category for students who self-identify as multi-racial. Sophia reported that Indiana has the highest suspension rate. Monroe County is in the 78th percentile in the state. There is a school to prison pipeline, and she is trying to increase awareness and inform Monroe County officials and residents who are working on a new juvenile correctional facility about the connection between school discipline and later incarceration. Judge Welch wants to see a specific connection between suspension and incarceration. Brian Chatfield reported that he is doing research on this topic. Sophia reported that the next meeting about the juvenile facility

is Thursday May 12 at 4:00 p.m.

David asked how we will know how effective the alternatives will be. Participation in these forums is crucial. Monroe County pays when it ships juveniles to facilities out of county. Sophia discussed talking with Antonio Jackson, and said Shalom Center has a new program to help people who have recently been released from prison.

CJAM

Aniko announced that she will be leaving Bloomington and her position at MCCSC at the end of June to go to Florida to be with her mother. Make commission suggestions for possible candidates for Aniko's position to Dr. Maloy, MCCSC Superintendent.

Criminal Justice Task Force - postponed

State Commission - postponed

Recognition of Black Males in the Schools - reminder that school ends on June 10th

City of Bloomington Employee Services Department - postponed

2005 Meeting Dates and Times - May 11th next meeting in the Hooker Conference Room #245.